

## BOOK NOTICES

BILL WITT. 2006. **Orchids In Your Pocket: A Guide to the Native Orchids of Iowa.** (ISBN 1-58729-499-0, laminated fold-out guide). University of Iowa Press, 100 Kuhl House, Iowa City, IA 52242-1000, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.uiopress.uiowa.edu, 319-335-2000, 319-335-2055 fax, 1-800-621-2736). \$9.95, 437 pp., 32 color photos, 4¼" × 9".

A plastic-laminated, fold-up pocket guide (9 x 4 inches) with color photos of thirty-one species of orchids plus two hybrids. Common and scientific names, habitat and distribution, height, phenology, and rarity status are given for each species. Eighteen of the species are listed as threatened, endangered, or of special concern.—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

JOHN TULLOCK. 2005. **Growing Hardy Orchids.** (ISBN 0-88192-715-5, hbk.). Timber Press Inc., The Haseltine Building, 133 SW Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 503-227-3070 fax, 1-800-327-5680). \$29.95, 244 pp., 100 color illustrations, 6" × 9".

"Part of the reason I first became interested in growing native orchids stemmed directly from their reputation for fussiness in cultivation. In no reference book could I find any encouragement for including native orchids in my wildflower garden; in fact, most of the books I consulted contained numerous exhortations to avoid even attempting to grow them. ... I developed my orchid growing techniques through direct observation of numerous orchid species in their natural settings, observations accumulated over thirty years of excursions up and down the [Tennessee] valley and into the mountains on either side of it. Assisted by the insights of other orchidists whose works appear in the bibliography, I now grow [in Knoxville] twelve North American orchid species and three exotic ones." Although there apparently is no explicit list of these species, the following are specifically mentioned in the text and photos as growing in his garden: *Bletilla striata*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Goodyera pubescens*, *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera integrilabia*, *Platanthera flava*, *Platanthera peramoena*, *Platanthera psycodes*, *Spiranthes cernua* var. *odorata*, and *Tipularia discolor*.

The author is an ardent conservationist and notes the value of "bringing wild species into cultivation and developing effective techniques for their large-scale propagation" and that transplants of species in immediate threat of the "bulldozer" are a valuable way of conserving germ plasm. Among the appended resources is a list with addresses of orchid suppliers and organizations.

Chapters include: **1)** Native orchid conservation: One view; **2)** General principles of hardy orchid cultivation; **3)** Propagation of hardy orchids; **4)** Mycorrhizal associations and hardy orchids; **5)** Hardy orchids through the seasons; **6)** *Bletilla*: The ideal beginner's plant; **7)** A catalog of hardy and half-hardy orchids.—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

PAUL MARTIN BROWN (Text) AND STAN FOLSOM (Original Artwork). 2006. **Wild Orchids of the Prairies and Great Plains Region of North America.** (ISBN 0-8130-2975-9, flexibind). University Press of Florida, 15 Northwest 15th Street, Gainesville, FL 32611-2079, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.upf.com, 352-392-1351, 352-392-7302 fax, 1-800-226-3822). \$29.95, 376 pp., 316 color plates, 94 b/w illustrations, 81 maps, 6" × 9".

The beauty and compact taxonomy of North American orchids has stimulated production of a plethora of regional identification guides and accounts. This is a particularly fine one, plus it's relatively inexpensive and easily of size to be carried around in the field. Included are 21 genera, with 64 species, 9 varieties, and 8 hybrids, over a range from southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba south to the north-eastern corner of New Mexico, the northern half of Texas, and the northwestern corner of Louisiana. The author notes that "recent work in volume 26 of *Flora of North America* (2002) has greatly fine-tuned the identification and distribution of these orchids."

The book is divided into four parts: (1) a brief discussion of prairies and orchids, an introduction to the format for Part 2, and keys to the genera, (2) treatments of the genera and species, (3) references and resources, and (4) orchid hunting. Two appendices give distribution by state for each species and a chart of flowering times. **Part 2** has keys to species within each genus and species descriptions, with detailed range maps, several color photos (and often line drawings) for each species showing habit and floral details, and comments from the author's personal experience on ecology, phenology, abundance, critical features of identification, and hybrids. Formally described color and growth forms are listed for each species. **Part 3** has a checklist for the region, provincial and state species lists, "some regional orchid statistics," rare, threatened, and endangered species, synonyms and misapplied names, recent literature references for new taxa, combinations, and additions, a commentary on use of Luer's 1975 compendium on orchids of the USA and Canada, and commentaries (with comparative photos) on distinctions in 8 cases of cryptic species, species pairs, and varietal pairs. **Part 4** give details suggestions on where to look for orchids in each of seven subregions.—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.